

## LOG OF MEETING

**SUBJECT:** Electrical Safety Issues for the American Council on Electrical Safety (ACES)

**DATE:** March 16, 2000

**PLACE:** Room 611  
East West Towers

**DATE OF LOG ENTRY:** March 16, 2000

**LOG ENTRY SOURCE:** William H. King, Jr., Engineering Sciences *W.H.K.*

**CPSC PARTICIPANT:** William H. King, Jr., Engineering Sciences

### NON-CPSC PARTICIPANTS:

Leonard Frier, MET Laboratories, Inc.  
Sandy Ruiter, Underwriters Laboratories Inc.

### SUMMARY:

Mr. Frier sought the continued participation of the CPSC engineering staff in the twice-per-year meetings of the ACES, held in the Washington, DC area. Mr. King indicated that he planned to attend the May ACES meeting, and suggested an agenda topic: to provide update of CPSC electrical safety issues.

Attached are the minutes of the initial meeting held on November 9, 1999.

CPSC/OFFICE OF  
THE SECRETARY  
2000 MAR 17 P 2:47

CPSC 6 (1/1) Change 3/21/00 *BB*

*Q* No Min/Prod. Inc.

Products Identified

Exempted by

**American Council on Electrical Safety (ACES) Minutes**  
**Tuesday, November 9, 1999**  
**Holiday Inn Central, Washington, D.C.**

Introduction

Mr. Leonard Frier, MET Laboratories, chaired the meeting. Mr. Frier also serves as ACIL's Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) Group Leader. There were 37 people in attendance. (Please see the attached list of attendees.)

Following introductions, Mr. Frier offered opening remarks. He advised that this is the first time representatives from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), most NRTLs, and chief electrical inspectors have assembled together to discuss electrical product safety issues in the United States. It was noted that through its regulatory powers, this group could effect the safety, use, installation and/or sale of electrical products. Participants agreed that this group will be called the *American Council on Electrical Safety (ACES)*.

CACES

In Canada, the Canadian Advisory Council on Electrical Safety (CACES) discusses issues related to electrical safety. All chief electrical inspectors, certification organizations and the Standards Council of Canada meet twice per year to review and resolve safety issues. This group would like to try to mirror CACES. Participants agreed that this is a necessary project for the U.S. and its creation was long overdue.

Rules and Procedures

ACES will need rules and procedures to operate by. The CACES rules, titled "Terms of Reference" are a good basis. Mr. Pat Paladino, ITS and Ms. Mary Jo DiBernardo, ACIL volunteered to draft a set of procedures for ACES. This will be submitted for discussion at the next meeting.

Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs)

Participants discussed that MRAs between the U.S. and other governments that include electrical safety and certification marks (or marks otherwise identifying electrical products that meet U.S. safety standards) should ~~be~~ not be carried out without the input from ACES. The CE mark was also discussed. There is a general lack of understanding among some inspectors and the public on the meaning of the CE Mark. The NRTL mark was compared with the CE mark. It was agreed that education should be one of the primary focuses for ACES.

Education

Education is necessary to educate inspectors on the significance of the NRTL Program and the various organizations that are accredited as NRTLs. It was suggested that a clear explanation should be sent to all inspectors.

OSHA Presentation

Mr. Joseph Pipkin from OSHA's Office of Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Engineering Safety Standards gave a detailed presentation on the conflicts between the U.S. hazardous location division system and the international zone system. Although it was clear that there should be harmonization between these systems, other priorities will keep OSHA from resolving this issue anytime in the near future. It is critical that inspectors are assured that products coming into this country are applied correctly in hazardous locations due to the inconsistencies in the system. This was cited as an action item for ACES to follow-up on.

Mr. Pipkin also explained that the OSHA requirement to have products listed and labeled is contained in Sub Part S 1910 of the Code of Federal Register (CFR). However, construction requirements are found in Part 1926, and as such, have no similar requirement. Therefore, from OSHA's point of view, there are no safety requirements for electrical products on a construction site. This was also cited as an action item for ACES to follow-up on.

Participants discussed OSHA's plan to adapt NFPA 70E in place of Sub Part S. Mr. Pipkin explained that OSHA has the authority to go "directly to a standard" in lieu of them writing their standard. In NFPA 70E there is no requirement for listing and labeling electrical products, and according to Mr. Pipkin, there is little chance this will change anytime soon. This will be an action item for ACES to pursue in the future.

#### CPSC Presentation

Mr. Bill King, CPSC, made a brief presentation on the history, operation and successes of the CPSC. CPSC's focus is on consumer and home products, while OSHA's is on workplace safety. Mr. King noted instances in which products that were safe for installation were misused and caused dangerous conditions. Some were due to unclear marking by the manufacturer. Currently, the CPSC is expanding its reach to other countries to warn manufacturers that unlisted products could be confiscated when entering the U.S. It was mentioned that the U.S. Customs Service would be invited to join ACES since their participation could help to control entry of certain products into the U.S. market.

#### Conditions of Acceptability

Mr. Rick Cooper from MET Laboratories, Inc. presented some examples of how a directory of recognized components, by itself, could not be used as the basis to determine if a component was correct for the application. There are conditions associated with the certification of such components that must be certified when determining their suitability in an application. Recognized components cannot by itself be the determining factor in deciding if a product is compliant.

#### Publicity

At the conclusion of the prepared presentations there was open discussion. A document describing the goals and purpose of ACES was reviewed. A revised version is attached. It was decided that the goals and purpose of ACES should be further publicized. Mr. Jim Stallcup, Jr., Grayboy & Associates, volunteered to write an article for EC & M, and Len

Frier of MET volunteered to write an article for IAEI magazine. The articles will also be posted on ACIL's Web site ([www.acil.org](http://www.acil.org)) or published in whole or in part in ACIL's newsletter.

#### Meeting Fees

A brief discussion took place among participants regarding the costs associated with holding future ACES meetings. Participants agreed that reasonable fees should be collected by ACIL to host the meetings. This will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

#### General Conclusions

Prior to adjournment, participants discussed the great value they found in this forum. Two specific comments are noted below:

"I think this forum is a must for public safety -- and since my job is public safety, I will want to be very active". Leon Peters, Chief Electrical Inspector, City of Baltimore.

"I think this group will benefit society greatly by discussing issues related to electrical product safety and working to promote safety. I think it is great." Bill King Jr., CPSC.

#### Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 23, 2000  
Washington, D.C.  
Location TBA

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Meeting Participants  
Tuesday, November 9, 1999**

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